

## Chapter 7: Destiny of a Race

- State leaders failed to react to the violence in Wilmington. Governor Daniel L. Russell's Adjutant General was the only member of his Council of State to play a role in suppressing the violence of November 10. No state investigation took place.
- President William McKinley held a cabinet meeting to discuss violence in Wilmington and Phoenix, South Carolina, and discussed the possibility of sending troops into the state to calm the violence. No troops were sent because McKinley received no request for assistance from Governor Russell. The President was assured by Wilmington leaders that peace had been restored despite receiving numerous letters requesting help.
- A federal investigation was opened by the U.S. Attorney General's Office in response to the claim of federally appointed commissioner Robert Bunting that he was forcibly ejected from the city. The files were closed with no indictments in 1900.
- In another attempt to bring Democrats to justice, Oliver Dockery unsuccessfully challenged the election of John D. Bellamy to the U. S. House of Representatives.
- Members of Wilmington's African American community attended church on the Sunday following the violence to hear ministers deliver sermons emphasizing appeasement and obedience.
- African Americans nationwide rallied to the cause of Wilmington's blacks and held meetings to pressure President McKinley's administration into action. However, many leading black figures were split on the best solution to the "Negro problem" and no nationwide campaign materialized.
- Wilmington Democrats rationalized their actions and countered claims of Republicans throughout the country at every opportunity. Whites maintained their control over the city through intimidation and threats to Republicans and blacks.
- Democrats solidified their control over city government by securing a rewritten city charter from the new legislature in January 1899. Under the new charter, Waddell and the Board of Aldermen were officially elected into office in March 1899 with no Republican resistance.
- A new suffrage amendment to disfranchise black voters through literacy tests and poll taxes was added to the state constitution by voters in 1900. Charles B. Aycock was also elected governor that year. The Democratically controlled state legislature overturned Fusion legislation and placed control over county governments in Raleigh. New election laws were constructed to limit Republican power in the 1900 election.
- African Americans in Wilmington adjusted to the societal changes, redefining a position for themselves under Democratic control seated in the white supremacy movement and Jim Crow legislation. Among the consequences were inequities in public education funding and the replacement of black laborers by whites on the city's docks and elsewhere.